

March 6, 1964

REVISED MEMORANDUM

TO: J. Lee Rankin

FROM: William T. Coleman, Jr.
W. David Slawson

SUBJECT: Oswald's Foreign Activities: Oswald's Trip to the
Soviet Union and His Contacts with the U. S.
Department of State

A.

OSWALD'S TRIP TO, AND STAY IN, THE SOVIET UNION
(September 4, 1959 to June 1, 1962)

1. Oswald's Application for Passport in 1959 and
Trip to the Soviet Union.

On September 4, 1959, while still in the United States Marine Corps, Lee Harvey Oswald applied for a United States passport to travel abroad. The application stated that he intended to leave the United States on September 21, 1959 by ship owned by the Grace Lines from New Orleans, Louisiana. (His mother has stated he saved \$1,600 while in the Marine Corps.) He made the application for the passport at Santa Ana, California before W. B. Wallace, Clerk of the Superior Court at Santa Ana, California.^{1/} Oswald stated on the application that the purpose of his trip would be to attend the Albert Schweitzer College in Churivalden, Switzerland^{2/} and

1/ The US Passport application is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 (File 294j).

2/ Letter of Mar 22, 1960 from College to Lee H. Oswald in papers given to US Secret Service by Marguerite Oswald on Nov 27, 1963. He had made his application for admission on Mar 14, 1959. See letter from College to Marguerite Oswald dated Sept 3, 1960 from same source.

the University of Turku in Finland and to visit certain other countries as a tourist. The countries named were Cuba, Dominican Republic, England, France, Switzerland, Germany, Finland, Russia. Oswald indicated that he would be away for four months. As part of the application, he submitted a statement that he was to be discharged from the Marine Corps on September 11, 1959^{3/}.

The U.S. passport was issued on September 10, 1959 and was No. 1733242. Presumably a passport file for Oswald was opened at the Department of State on that date and such file should be one of the files now at the Department of State^{4/}.

Oswald was discharged (honorably) by the United States Marine Corps on September 11, 1959^{5/} and presumably went immediately to Fort Worth, Texas to visit with his mother, Marguerite C. Oswald. He stayed there days and left telling his mother he was going to return to New Orleans, but he immediately embarked on the S.S. "Marion Lykes"^{6/} for LeHavre, France, leaving New Orleans on September 19, 1959 and arriving at LeHavre, France, on October 8, 1959. He departed the same day for Southhampton, England, where he arrived on October 9, 1959. On October 10, 1959 he flew from London Airport to

^{3/} Attached hereto as Exhibit No. 2 is a copy of such statement (File 294j).

^{4/} See, e.g., Memo of Jun 20, '62, written by SCA:SCS. The file number is given as 905-A 128-6501. Memo states that attached Operations Memo of Jun 12, '62 is for inclusion in the passport file of Lee Harvey Oswald.

^{5/} See Exhibit No. 2.

^{6/} Fare was \$215 plus \$5.75 tax.

MR Lykes company
used by CIA
for cover purposes

Helsinki, Finland. He arrived in Helsinki, Finland on
 . On October 14, 1959 he applied at the Soviet Embassy
in Helsinki for a Soviet visa^{7/}, and was issued Soviet Tourist
Visa No. 403339 valid for entry at the Viborg-Moscow border
point until October 20, 1959 for a six-day sojourn in the
Soviet Union from the time he crossed the border with exit at
the same point. Oswald entered the Soviet Union at the
Vainikkaln crossing point enroute to Moscow by train on
October ^{8/}, 1959. He arrived in Moscow, Russia on October
16, 1959.

He was met at the train by an Intourist Representa-
tive and taken to the Hotel "Berlin," he showed his six-day
tourist visa and registered as a student. According to
Oswald's "Historic Diary" he immediately told his intourist
guide that he wished to apply for Soviet citizenship. The
guide checked with the superior at Intourist headquarters,
notified the "passport and visa office" and then helped
Oswald prepare a letter to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.
requesting citizenship.

Yuri Ivanovich Nosenko, the most recent Soviet
defector, informed the FBI that when Oswald arrived as a
tourist in the Soviet Union the KGB had no "current interest"

^{7/} See Exhibit No. 5, attached hereto. (File 294k)
^{8/} According to Oswald's "Historic Diary."

* It seems
plane manifests
did not exist
in 1964 ??!!

in Oswald and possessed no information that Oswald was a member of the Communist Party, U.S.A., or elsewhere. He also had indicated that Oswald was discouraged from remaining permanently in Russia. He said "Oswald was not regarded by the KGB as being completely normal mentally nor was he considered to be very intelligent."

Apparently the KGB, Second Chief Directorate of the Committee for State Security, was aware of Oswald's presence in Moscow from October 16, 1959, the day of his arrival in Moscow.^{9/} See FBI Report on Interview with Nosenko, dated March 3, 1964.

2. Oswald's Actions at U.S. Embassy in re Renunciation of U.S. Citizenship.

The first contact that the U.S. Embassy in Moscow had with Oswald was on October, 1959.^{10/} On that date Oswald appeared at the American Embassy and saw Richard E. Snyder, who was then Second Secretary. He threw his passport on Snyder's desk, stating that he wanted to renounce his American citizenship. He also handed to Snyder the following

- 9/ Nosenko states that within two hours after the assassination he was summoned to the KGB Center in Moscow and queried concerning his knowledge of Oswald. There is a report from KGB at Minsk, rendered after the assassination but before the Minsk office knew the relevancy of the Moscow inquiry, that the KGB at Minsk had endeavored "to influence Oswald in the right direction."
- 10/ It should be noted that Oswald's visit to the American Embassy was after he attempted suicide. See "Historic Diary."